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10/779,606

02/18/2004

Michael J. Seals

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24504

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01/30/2009

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EXAMINER

TAYLOR, BARRY W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/779,606	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SEALS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Barry W. Taylor	<b>Art Unit</b> 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

1. Claim 40 is non-statutory because it does not meet the interim guidelines.

The Examiner notes that Applicants specification defines for a computer readable medium in paragraph 0028 that **instructions to be stored on one or more processor readable carriers** (e.g., a magnetic disk), **or transmitted to one or more processors via one or more signals**. It is clearly that the medium can be in the form of **signal(s) which is non-statutory**.

The “**computer readable medium**” is non-statutory since it is defined in specification paragraph 0028 (see above) as being **inclusive** of signals transmitted by a carrier which is non-statutory.

The Examiner suggests amending the specification to eliminate the 101 rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 21-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arvelo (7,082,107) in view of Harris et al (2006/0182030 hereinafter Harris).

Regarding claim 21. Arvelo teaches a method for output power dithering for improved transmitter performance (title, abstract), the method comprising:

transmitting a plurality of packets at a first output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46) ;

determining a first error rate associated with the transmission of the plurality of packets at the first output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46);

transmitting the plurality of packets at least one second output power different from the first output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46);

determining at least one second error rate associated with the transmission at the at least one second output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46); and

identifying a desired output power based at least in part on a comparison between the first error rate and the at least one second error rate (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46).

Arvelo does not explicitly show comparing first and second error rates to control output power.

The Examiner notes that Arvelo teaches using ACKs and NACKs so that the transmitter will know to re-transmit the data that had the error (col. 5 lines 21-61). Arvelo clearly teaches the transmitter compares the number of errors to thresholds and if the power level at the transmitter needs to be adjusted to achieve the desired signal quality, then the transmitter either increases or decreases the power level accordingly (col. 5 lines 21-61).

Harris also teaches a method and apparatus to adjust output power for re-transmission of packets (paragraph 0065). Harris teaches first and second error rates are used to determine a transmit output power (paragraph 0066). Harris even teaches the use of a third error rate before determining a transmit output power (paragraph 0067). More importantly, Harris teaches comparing a first, second, or additionally third and fourth error rates (paragraph 0068) to determine how to adjust the transmit output power. In this way the system can maintain an overall error rate or abort rate by

individually adjusting each leg of the link and allowing retransmissions to be utilized on legs that can best afford retransmissions and transmissions may be made at higher power levels on legs where the transmissions will least interfere with other communications (see last nine lines of paragraph 0068 and paragraph 0072).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the power control method and system as taught by Arvelo to compare first and second error rates as taught by Harris in order to allow the transmitter to adjust power levels for retransmission thereby minimizing interference as taught by Harris.

Regarding claims 22-23. Arvelo teaches using ACKs and NACKs so the transmitter will know to re-transmit the data that had the error with an adjusted output power level but does so without comparing error rates.

Harris also teaches a method and apparatus to adjust output power for re-transmission of packets (paragraph 0065). Harris teaches first and second error rates are used to determine a transmit output power (paragraph 0066). Harris even teaches the use of a third error rate before determining a transmit output power (paragraph 0067). More importantly, Harris teaches **comparing** a first, second, or additionally third and fourth error rates (paragraph 0068) to determine how to adjust the transmit output power. In this way the system can maintain an overall error rate or abort rate by individually adjusting each leg of the link and allowing retransmissions to be utilized on legs that can best afford retransmissions and transmissions may be made at higher

power levels on legs where the transmissions will least interfere with other communications (see last nine lines of paragraph 0068 and paragraph 0072).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the power control method and system as taught by Arvelo to compare first and second error rates as taught by Harris in order to allow the transmitter to adjust power levels for retransmission thereby minimizing interference while overall error targets are maintained as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 24. Arvelo teaches resuming transmission of the plurality of packets at the first output power if the first error rate or the second error rate is not determined based on a predetermined criterion (col. 4 lines 43-50).

Regarding claim 25. Arvelo teaches using ACKs and NACKs so the transmitter will know to re-transmit the data that had the error but does so without comparing error rates.

Harris also teaches a method and apparatus to adjust output power for re-transmission of packets (paragraph 0065). Harris teaches first and second error rates are used to determine a transmit output power (paragraph 0066). Harris even teaches the use of a third error rate before determining a transmit output power (paragraph 0067). More importantly, Harris teaches **comparing** a first, second, or additionally third and fourth error rates (paragraph 0068) to determine how to adjust the transmit output power. In this way the system can maintain an overall error rate or abort rate by individually adjusting each leg of the link and allowing retransmissions to be utilized on legs that can best afford retransmissions and transmissions may be made at higher

power levels on legs where the transmissions will least interfere with other communications (see last nine lines of paragraph 0068 and paragraph 0072).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the power control method and system as taught by Arvelo to compare first and second error rates as taught by Harris in order to allow the transmitter to adjust power levels for retransmission thereby minimizing interference while overall error targets are maintained as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 26. Arvelo teaches a method for output power dithering for improved transmitter performance (title, abstract), the method comprising:

transmitting a plurality of packets at a first output power; determining a first error rate associated with the transmission of the plurality of packets at the first output power; transmitting the plurality of packets at a second output power if the first error rate is greater than a predetermined error rate value, wherein the second output power is different from the first output power; determining a second error rate associated with the transmission at the second output power; and adjusting the second output power if the second error rate is lower than the first error rate (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46).

Arvelo does not explicitly show comparing first and second error rates to control output power.

The Examiner notes that Arvelo teaches using ACKs and NACKs so that the transmitter will know to re-transmit the data that had the error (col. 5 lines 21-61).

Arvelo clearly teaches the transmitter compares the number of errors to thresholds and



if the power level at the transmitter needs to be adjusted to achieve the desired signal quality, then the transmitter either increases or decreases the power level accordingly (col. 5 lines 21-61).

Harris also teaches a method and apparatus to adjust output power for re-transmission of packets (paragraph 0065). Harris teaches first and second error rates are used to determine a transmit output power (paragraph 0066). Harris even teaches the use of a third error rate before determining a transmit output power (paragraph 0067). More importantly, Harris teaches comparing a first, second, or additionally third and fourth error rates (paragraph 0068) to determine how to adjust the transmit output power. In this way the system can maintain an overall error rate or abort rate by individually adjusting each leg of the link and allowing retransmissions to be utilized on legs that can best afford retransmissions and transmissions may be made at higher power levels on legs where the transmissions will least interfere with other communications (see last nine lines of paragraph 0068 and paragraph 0072).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the power control method and system as taught by Arvelo to compare first and second error rates as taught by Harris in order to allow the transmitter to adjust power levels for retransmission thereby minimizing interference as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 27. Arvelo teaches where the second output power is adjusted until a desired value of the second error rate is reached (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46).

Harris also teaches adjusting second output power until a desired second error rate is reached (paragraphs 0068, 0072).

Regarding claim 28. Arvelo teaches transmitting the plurality of packets at a third output power if the second error rate is not lower than' the first error rate, wherein the third output power is different from the first output power and the second output power; determining a third error rate associated with the transmission at the third output power; and adjusting the third output power if the third error rate is lower than the first error rate (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46). Harris also teaches adjusting third output power to maintain overall error targets (paragraphs 0068, 0072).

Regarding claim 29. Arvelo teaches transmitting the plurality of packets at the first output power if the third error rate is not lower than the first error rate (col. 4 lines 43-50). Harris also teaches adjusting output power to maintain overall error targets (paragraphs 0068, 0072).

Regarding claim 30. Arvelo teaches resuming transmission of the plurality of packets at the first output power if the first error rate or the second error rate is not determined based on a predetermined criterion (col. 4 lines 43-50). Harris also teaches adjusting output power to maintain overall error targets (paragraphs 0068, 0072).

Regarding claim 31. Arvelo teaches the first error rate and the second error rate are determined based on a number of failed acknowledgements of transmitted packets (col. 5 lines 21-50). Harris also teaches error rates based on NAK's (i.e. failed ACKnowledgements, see paragraphs 0065, 0066, 0067, 0068).

Regarding claim 32. Arvelo teaches transmission at the first output power and second output power is associated with a variable data rate (title, abstract, col. 3 lines 12-13). Harris also teaches adjusting output power or error targets (paragraphs 0068, 0072).

Regarding claim 33. Arvelo teaches wherein the first error rate, the second error rate and the predetermined error rate value are associated with the variable data rate (title, abstract, col. 3 lines 12-13). Harris also teaches adjusting output power or error targets (paragraphs 0068, 0072).

Regarding claim 34. Arvelo teaches transmission at the first output power and second output power is associated with a variable data rate (title, abstract, col. 3 lines 12-13). Harris also teaches adjusting output power or error targets (paragraphs 0068, 0072).

Regarding claim 35. Arvelo teaches wherein the first error rate, the second error rate and the predetermined error rate value are associated with the variable data rate (title, abstract, col. 3 lines 12-13). Harris also teaches adjusting output power or error targets (paragraphs 0068, 0072).

Regarding claim 36. Arvelo teaches a system for output power dithering for improved transmitter performance (title, abstract), the system comprising:

a transmitter that transmits a plurality of packets at a first output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46); and

a processor that determines a first error rate associated with the transmission of the plurality of packets at the first output power;

causes the transmitter to transmit the plurality of packets at least one second output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46);

determines at least one second error rate associated with the transmission at the at least one second output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46); and

identifies a desired output power based at least in part on a comparison between the first error rate and the at least one second error rate (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46).

Arvelo does not explicitly show comparing first and second error rates to control output power.

The Examiner notes that Arvelo teaches using ACKs and NACKs so that the transmitter will know to re-transmit the data that had the error (col. 5 lines 21-61).

Arvelo clearly teaches the transmitter compares the number of errors to thresholds and if the power level at the transmitter needs to be adjusted to achieve the desired signal quality, then the transmitter either increases or decreases the power level accordingly (col. 5 lines 21-61).

Harris also teaches a method and apparatus to adjust output power for re-transmission of packets (paragraph 0065). Harris teaches first and second error rates are used to determine a transmit output power (paragraph 0066). Harris even teaches

the use of a third error rate before determining a transmit output power (paragraph 0067). More importantly, Harris teaches **comparing** a first, second, or additionally third and fourth error rates (paragraph 0068) to determine how to adjust the transmit output power. In this way the system can maintain an overall error rate or abort rate by individually adjusting each leg of the link and allowing retransmissions to be utilized on legs that can best afford retransmissions and transmissions may be made at higher power levels on legs where the transmissions will least interfere with other communications (see last nine lines of paragraph 0068 and paragraph 0072).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the power control method and system as taught by Arvelo to compare first and second error rates as taught by Harris in order to allow the transmitter to adjust power levels for retransmission thereby minimizing interference as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 37. Arvelo teaches a system for output power dithering for improved transmitter performance (title, abstract), the system comprising:

means for transmitting a plurality of packets at a first output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46);

means for determining a first error rate associated with the transmission of the plurality of packets at the first output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46);

means for transmitting the plurality of packets at least one second output power different from the first output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46);

means for determining at least one second error rate associated with the transmission at the at least one second output power (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46); and

means for identifying a desired output power based at least in part on a comparison between the first error rate and the at least one second error rate (title, abstract, figures 1 and 3, col. 3 lines 12-33, col. 3 line 63 – col. 4 line 65, col. 5 lines 21-61, col. 10 lines 37-46).

Arvelo does not explicitly show comparing first and second error rates to control output power.

The Examiner notes that Arvelo teaches using ACKs and NACKs so that the transmitter will know to re-transmit the data that had the error (col. 5 lines 21-61). Arvelo clearly teaches the transmitter compares the number of errors to thresholds and if the power level at the transmitter needs to be adjusted to achieve the desired signal quality, then the transmitter either increases or decreases the power level accordingly (col. 5 lines 21-61).

Harris also teaches a method and apparatus to adjust output power for re-transmission of packets (paragraph 0065). Harris teaches first and second error rates are used to determine a transmit output power (paragraph 0066). Harris even teaches the use of a third error rate before determining a transmit output power (paragraph

0067). More importantly, Harris teaches comparing a first, second, or additionally third and fourth error rates (paragraph 0068) to determine how to adjust the transmit output power. In this way the system can maintain an overall error rate or abort rate by individually adjusting each leg of the link and allowing retransmissions to be utilized on legs that can best afford retransmissions and transmissions may be made at higher power levels on legs where the transmissions will least interfere with other communications (see last nine lines of paragraph 0068 and paragraph 0072).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the power control method and system as taught by Arvelo to compare first and second error rates as taught by Harris in order to allow the transmitter to adjust power levels for retransmission thereby minimizing interference as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 38. Arvelo teaches using ACKs and NACKs so the transmitter will know to re-transmit the data that had the error with an adjusted output power level but does so without comparing error rates.

Harris also teaches a method and apparatus to adjust output power for re-transmission of packets (paragraph 0065). Harris teaches first and second error rates are used to determine a transmit output power (paragraph 0066). Harris even teaches the use of a third error rate before determining a transmit output power (paragraph 0067). More importantly, Harris teaches comparing a first, second, or additionally third and fourth error rates (paragraph 0068) to determine how to adjust the transmit output power. In this way the system can maintain an overall error rate or abort rate by

individually adjusting each leg of the link and allowing retransmissions to be utilized on legs that can best afford retransmissions and transmissions may be made at higher power levels on legs where the transmissions will least interfere with other communications (see last nine lines of paragraph 0068 and paragraph 0072).

It would have been obvious for any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the power control method and system as taught by Arvelo to compare first and second error rates as taught by Harris in order to allow the transmitter to adjust power levels for retransmission thereby minimizing interference as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 39. Applicants define 802.11 protocol to be technique that requires feedback from the receiver to adjust the transmitter (see Applicants specification page 2, lines 13-15). Arvelo teaches receiver sending ACK or NACK to transmitter so the transmitter will know to re-transmit the data that had the error (col. 5 lines 21-50). Harris also teaches ACK's and NAK's (paragraphs 0065-0068).

Regarding claim 40. Program claim 40 is rejected for the same reasons as method claim 21 and system claim 36 since the recited apparatus and method would perform the claimed program steps.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.



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4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

---(2007/0021071) Brouwer teaches that it is advantageous to operate a system at various retransmission rates depending on BLOCK ERROR RATES (see at least paragraph 0038) and comparison of BLER (see last nine lines of paragraph 0041 and the last seven lines of paragraph 0046 and the last seven lines of independent claim 54).

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor, telephone number (571) 272-7509, who is available Monday-Thursday, 6:30am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dwayne Bost, can be reached at (571) 272-7023. The central facsimile phone number for this group is **571-273-8300**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600, the 2600 Customer Service telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Centralized Delivery Policy: For patent related correspondence, hand carry deliveries must be made to the Customer Service Window (now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), and facsimile transmissions must be sent to the central fax number (**571-273-8300**).

/Barry W Taylor/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2617